

FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., GOVERNOR
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Dear Friday Night Facts Readers:

We have entered the season of giving and sharing and there are more than a few people who are in need of special attention this month as well as throughout the year. As you prepare for giving and receiving holiday gifts this year, try not to forget those who will go without food, shelter, heat or clothing. Take a moment to look around in your communities and add a person in need to your gift list. A pair of gloves, a gently used coat, or a pair of boots will make a big difference in the lives of children who are not prepared for the cold months ahead. Funds donated to help those who need shelter, heating assistance, or food may save a life. Enjoy your many blessings by being a blessing to others.



While the task of picking up a phone and calling a loved one in the U.S. is easy, it becomes a bit more complicated when you're overseas...and in the military...and in a hospital.

This summer, Secretary of State Todd Rokita visited Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, a military casualty hospital operated by the U.S. European Military Command. It's also a primary medical evacuation destination for U.S. troops participating in Iraq and Afghanistan military operations. When told that international calling charges are not covered and injured troops were unable to contact home, he was determined to help meet this small but important need.

"I was deeply moved by the commitment, courage and high-spirits of the wounded soldiers I met," Mr. Rokita said. "More than one hospital staff member told me that when wounded soldiers regained consciousness, their first words were often identical: before asking about their own injuries, they would inquire if their fellow soldiers were okay, and then ask how soon they could get back to the field because their unit would be counting on them."

Being able to call home is something often taken for granted at home but is something injured troops overseas treasure. "A lot of families' fears could be alleviated if their wounded loved ones were able to contact them," Mr. Rokita said. "This is why I was determined to help collect the domestic phone cards for the soldiers, especially during the holiday season."

As a result, the Secretary of State's office is collecting 60 to 120 minute domestic prepaid telephone cards to be sent to wounded troops stationed overseas. This effort has been ongoing since Rokita returned home from his trip abroad, and the number of cards collected and sent has slowly been growing.

Phone cards can be purchased at local retailers. Please mail or deliver the cards to: Military Phone Card Program, c/o Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita, 201 Statehouse, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Beginning December 19th, the calling cards received will be forwarded so the soldiers can have them in time to call their loved ones over the holidays.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting <http://www.in.gov/sos/desk/PhoneCards.html> or by calling 312-232-6531.



Every year in March the country observes Women's History Month, honoring the unique role women have played in shaping our country. This year, Indiana Lt. Governor Becky Skillman is kicking off the celebration with the **2008 Celebration of Hoosier Women Artists**, an art competition to highlight female artists from around the state.

"The 2007 Hoosier Women Artists competition was a great success. It has been an honor to display the winning pieces in my office," said Lt. Governor Skillman. "I look forward to seeing this year's submissions and once again sharing the winners with Hoosiers who visit the Statehouse."

The works will be on display in the office of Lt. Governor Skillman through 2008. To schedule a tour of the Statehouse and the Lt. Governor's office, contact the Statehouse Tour Office at (317) 233-5293. For more information on competition guidelines and dates, please visit <http://www.in.gov/lg/2348.htm>.

On July 27, 2007 the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Midwest Region hosted a one-day conference called "*Raising the Bar: Successful Collaboration across FNS Programs*." The purpose of the conference was to showcase best practices in collaborations across federal nutrition assistance programs to deliver nutrition education to our clients. The conference drew almost 130 local, state and federal partners from the Midwest states.



Many partners weren't able to attend the meeting but wanted a summary of the outcomes. A summary of the meeting highlights is now posted on the Food and Nutrition Service website at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/oane/SNAP/Files/MWROmeetinghighlights.pdf>

If you're interested in learning more about ongoing collaborations in your state, click on this link to State Nutrition Action Plans (SNAP) on the FNS website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/oane/SNAP/SNAP.htm>



A new proposed book seeks to allow service-learning's major criticisms to be examined and challenges to be voiced with the goal of contributing conclusive research that will ultimately help institutionalize service-learning across K-12 and higher education. Contributions on theory, research, pedagogy, and policy are sought. To learn more, contact Trae Stewart at pbstewar@mail.ucf.edu

Founded in 1996, the **Do Something BRICK Awards** honor America's top leaders age 18 and under in the areas of community building, health, and the environment. BRICK winners are social entrepreneurs who identified problems in their local communities and did something about it. The deadline to apply is December 31st. To learn more, visit <http://www.dosomething.org>



"Leadership is the special quality which enables people to stand up and pull the rest of us over the horizon."

—James L. Fisher



During the week leading up to the Super Bowl Weekend (January 28-February 1), schools across the country will participate in the **Souper Bowl of Caring** to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. **The Souper Bowl of Caring** is launching its new National Schools of Caring campaign to engage students in service and philanthropy. To register, visit <http://www.souperbowl.org/>

The mission of **USA Cares** is to help service members and their families around the globe by helping with emergency expenses. Since its founding in 2003, the organization has assisted more than 2,010 families and resourced more than \$1.2 million in grants for emergency needs like clothing, travel, food, auto repair, and other expenses. Service members and their families can make a request for funds through the organization's website. **USA Cares** is also a member of the Department of Defense "America Supports You" program. For more information, visit <http://www.usacares.us/>



The Public Welfare Foundation is a non-governmental grant-making organization dedicated to supporting organizations that provide services to disadvantaged populations and work for lasting improvements in the delivery of services that meet basic human needs. Grants have been awarded in the areas of criminal justice, disadvantaged elderly and youth, environment, population, health, community and economic development, human rights and technology assistance.

The Public Welfare Foundation looks for "carefully defined points where an infusion of energy, expertise and funds can set in motion systemic changes that can improve the lives of people in need." For 2008, the foundation will focus on three programs:

Criminal and Juvenile Justice, Health Reform, Workers' Rights, as well as an ongoing category, **Special Opportunities**. For more information, visit <http://www.publicwelfare.org/index.asp>

The Children's Museum will be hosting a public information and input session to discuss campus improvements on Saturday, December 8th from 10 AM to 12 noon. This will be the first public opportunity to learn about the new museum entryway, Welcome Center and transportation center that will improve visitor access and safety. Community input is encouraged! This forum will be held in the CFAF gallery on Level 2 of The Children's Museum, 3000 North Meridian Street, in Indianapolis. To RSVP for this event, please send an email to Phase2@childrensmuseum.org or call Sharon Concannon at 317-334-3209.



Click below to check out upcoming training opportunities on the OFBCI website.

<http://www.in.gov/ofbci/2414.htm>

If you have a training opportunity you would like considered for inclusion on the Training Calendar, please send the information to jgegel@ofbci.in.gov



For more information, visit
<http://www.hoosierfamily.org/dungypsa.php>

Volunteering is a PLUS at Indiana prison facilities!

Help prisoners build faith and character for a more successful re-entry back into their families and communities through a proven approach called the PLUS Program.



The Indiana Family Institute is proud to announce a new partnership with the Indiana Department of Correction to encourage you to serve as teachers and mentors in Indiana state prisons with offenders who are preparing for a return to the community.

Why? The PLUS program provides the ex-offender with an opportunity to explore personal growth issues through the concepts of faith and character-based teachings – **a constructive approach toward the goal of rehabilitation.**

Reality: 98% of offenders will return to their respective communities. When we volunteer and connect ex-offenders with community resources designed to support and encourage them, we send a message that we care about them and have a vested interest in their success, today and in the future.

Sign up today at <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/IndianaFamilyInstitute/OnlineRegistration.html>



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